

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air the anti-Kerry documentary, "Stolen Honor," days before the election displays a troubling lack of adherence to standard news practices of balanced campaign coverage and is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Politically partisan use of the airwaves under the guise of "news" does not serve the public's need for accurate information. Unless Sinclair provides equal time by airing a documentary supporting Senator Kerry's military record -- commercial-free and close to the "Stolen Honor" airing -- the network's decision appears to constitute an illegal campaign contribution and is certainly, harmful to our democratic election system.

With more and more conglomerates controlling the airwaves, I fear that the occurrence of local broadcasting decisions being made for financial reasons and far removed from the communities served will become increasingly common.

I hope this incident encourages the FCC to enact legislation protecting the public against further media consolidation.

Thank you.